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Dear Mr. Chairman:

I am pleased to provide you with our comments on S. Res. 204, "To express the sense of the Senate concerning Jaoul Wallenberg."

The Administration shares with the Congress a strong concern about the mysterious disappearance of Jaoul Wallenberg. In accordance with the legislation making Mr. Wallenberg an honorary American citizen, the Department of State has taken every appropriate opportunity to reiterate to the Soviet authorities the seriousness with which the American people and government view this situation. For example, we have consistently brought up the Wallenberg case at international conferences, such as the CSCE Review Conference in Madrid, and the U.N. Human Rights Commission.

The official Soviet explanations of what happened to Wallenberg have been inconsistent and incomplete. In 1947 the Soviets informed Sweden that Wallenberg died in Hungary in 1945. In 1957, after repeated Swedish inquiries, the Soviets stated that Wallenberg had, in fact, died in a Soviet prison in 1947. In 1980, the Soviets provided this same explanation to us.

Our position has remained consistent and clear. Until the Soviets provide a full clarification of Wallenberg's fate, the United States will not accept as final the Soviet assertions that Wallenberg died in 1947. We welcome the initiative of Senator Levin in introducing S. Res. 204, and we believe that its passage will serve to underscore the United States commitment to ascertain the fate of Jaoul Wallenberg.

The Office of Management and Budget advises that from the standpoint of the Administration's program there is no objection to the submission of this report.

Sincerely,

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Alvin Paul Drischler
Acting Assistant Secretary
Legislative and Intergovernmental Affairs

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The Honorable
Charles Percy,
Chairman,

Committee on Foreign Relations,
United States Senate.